

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 00012 031313Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----031321Z 055155 /46

O R 031230Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3612
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 0012

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, TZ
SUBJECT: SITHOLE URGES RENEWED US INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA;
GIVES VIEWS ON ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: A) 76 STATE 305262, B) 76 STATE 304373

RHODESIA TALKS

1. ZANU LEADER NDABANINGI SITHOLE CALLED ON CHARGE AND POLOFF JANUARY 3 TO REVIEW GENEVA TALKS TO DATE AND TO URGE RENEWED US INITIATIVE TO KEEP TALKS ON TRACK. SITHOLE CONTACTED EMBASSY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN DAR ES SALAAM JANUARY 2 FROM KHARTOUM AND KAMPALA, WHERE HE HAD BRIEFED IDI AMIN. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO DEPART FOR LUSAKA JANUARY 8, BEFORE RETURNING TO GENEVA FOR RENEWED RHODESIAN TALKS.

2. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, SITHOLE SAID, WAS TO URGE USG TO TAKE RENEWED INITIATIVE TO PRESSURE IAN SMITH, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA. ONLY SUCH NEW PRESSURE ON SMITH COULD KEEP TALKS GOING WITH ANY PROSPECT OF
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SUCCESS. WE AGREED PASS ON HIS VIEWS.

3. SITHOLE SAID HIS GROUP HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA TALKS, NOT TOO HOPEFULLY, BECAUSE IT RECOGNIZED THAT USG INITIATIVES HAD BROUGHT NEW FACTOR TO THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HAVING UNDERTAKEN TO PARTICIPATE, ZANU SERIOUSLY WANTS TALKS TO SUCCEED, AND WILL BE "THE LAST" TO ABANDON THEM WHILE ANY HOPE

REMAINS. HE REVIEWED HISTORY OF TALKS TO DATE, NOTING THE LONG AND NOT VERY FRUITFUL WRANGLING ABOUT THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE, AND THE APPARENT BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO TAKE A GREATER ROLE IN THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS THAN THEY HAD ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED.

4. SITHOLE ALSO RECOUNTED HIS TRAVELS AROUND AFRICA DURING LATTER POSTION OF GENEVA TALKS (WHILE SMITH WAS AWAY), WHICH HAD TAKEN HIM TO TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA AND LAGOS. COMMENTING ON ANGOLA, HE DISCUSSED THE TRACES OF CIVIL WAR STILL REFLECTED IN BULLET-POCKED BUILDINGS, AND THE OSTENTATIOUS CUBAN PRESENCE. ZIMBABWE WANTED TO AVOID CIVIL WAR AND WOULD BE NO HAPPIER TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF FOREIGN BLACKS THAN OF WHITES.

5. COMMENT: SITHOLE WAS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO CONVINCE US OF NEED FOR RENEWED US INITIATIVE AND OF HIS DESIRE FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND A NON-RACIALIST ZIMBABWE. HE DID NOT CAST MUCH LIGHT ON HIS OWN ROLE VIS-A-VIS OTHER NATIONALIST LEADERS.

ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

6. WE THEN ORALLY INFORMED SITHOLE OF APPROPRIATE PORTIONS REFTELS. SITHOLE RESPONDED POSITIVELY, SAYING FUND WAS OBVIOUSLY GOOD IDEA SINCE ASSISTANCE OF THIS SORT WOULD BE NEEDED. HE MIGHT HAVE ADDITIONAL POINTS LATER BUT THESE THOUGHTS CAME IMMEDIATELY TO MIND:

A) WOULD FUND BE ENTIRELY GRANT? IF NOT, WHAT WOULD BE DURATION OF LOANS AND RATE OF INTEREST?

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B) WOULD FUND CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRAMS OF NEW INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE OR AWAIT NEW INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE?

C) WHAT WOULD BE MECHANICS FOR FUND DISBURSEMENT? WOULD ALL DONOR GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO AGREE TO EACH ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL OR WOULD THERE BE A SINGLE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY IN SALISBURY EMPOWERED TO RESPOND QUICKLY ON BEHALF OF ALL DONORS?

D) REF B PARA 4 SAYS THAT FUND-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS WILL BE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN FUND AND GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE. SITHOLE UNDERSTANDS THAT DONORS WILL WANT TO KNOW FOR WHAT FUND MONIES ARE BEING USED AND THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING WASTED OR DIVERTED. HOWEVER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN CASE OF HONEST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FUND AND ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT IS NEEDED? SITHOLE CITED EXAMPLE OF TANZAM RAILWAY WHICH WESTERN DONORS UNWILLING TO FINANCE BUT WHICH WAS FELT BY ALL CONCERNED AFRICANS TO BE DEFINITELY NEEDED.
LEVIN

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